

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 10 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layer ~~[[4b]]~~ of larger surface area has a surface area that is 2 to 10 times greater than the surface area of the other layers ~~[[4a]]~~.

5. (currently amended) The packing according to claim 10 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~[[two]]~~ packing layers ~~[[4b]]~~ of higher surface area are arrayed in pairs in which they are mounted directly against each other.

6. (original) The packing according to claim 5 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein, between the pairs of layers ~~[[4b]]~~ of greater surface area ~~[[,]]~~ there are 1 to 10 ~~, preferably 3 to 6,~~ adjacent of the layers ~~[[4a)]]~~ with a smaller surface area.

7. (currently amended) A stacked packing according to claim ~~[[s]]~~ 10 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the packing layers ~~[[4b]]~~ with the larger surface area are made of materials that have perforations ~~, in particular expanded metal or wire mesh.~~

8 - 9. (canceled)

1 10. (new) A stacked packing for a heat-exchange or
2 mass-transfer column, the packing comprising
3 a horizontal packing part formed of a plurality of
4 upright layers, some of the layers of the lower part being of
5 substantially greater density and having a greater surface area
6 than others of the layers.

1 11. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 10
2 wherein the layers are transverse to the horizontal.

1 12. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 11
2 wherein the layers are perpendicular to the horizontal.

1 13. (new) The stacked packing defined in claim 11
2 wherein the layers extend vertically through the part.